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FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2002 LB 185, 447

only reworded, and the body adopted the same language. So where are we now? Well, actually, we are almost back to where we started with very few changes to the original amendment. Those changes, not substantive in nature, were simply clarifying language. The body had adopted the committee amendments at 11:30 on Friday, when the agenda dictated that we move to a special motion filed by Senator Beutler on LB 447, and that's where we stand now. We are back. I would presume that at some point this morning we are going to have adequately discussed this matter and you are going to be ready to vote on the issue. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. (Visitors and doctor of the day introduced.) On with discussing advancement of LB 185 to E & R Initial, Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Chambers and Brashear. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members, I want to thank Senator Pederson for his work on this bill. It's a narrow bill that affects Class I's. The railroads over the road now have two people as crew members. This would maintain that and it would be...it would go away if the feds preempted this. It has a severability clause. It's narrow enough where it should be advanced. I want to thank Senator Pederson for his work on this through the last year and a half and I urge the advancement of this bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers, on the advancement of LB 185.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, although this is Senator Don Pederson's bill, I feel something like Casey Jones. You know the story of Casey Jones is that he died with the throttle in his hand. Well, I'm not going to go that far, but I am willing to go as far as I can in terms of debating and trying to persuade my colleagues to support this bill. What we need to do, in my opinion, is to keep this bill alive. A genuine issue has been brought to us through Senator Don Pederson's bill. Before I continue, I want to read from an article that appeared in the Omaha World-Herald February the 15th. The headline is, and I dedicate this article to Senator